

**'COMMUNITY BAORD 12, Manhattan  
General Meeting  
Thursday, February 24, 2015**

**The Myrna L. Daniels Auditorium  
Milstein Family Heart Center  
at New York-Presbyterian Hospital  
173 Fort Washington Avenue**

***Board Members Present:***

Richard Allman , Shahabudden Ally, Yahaira Alonzo, Anita Barberis, Wayne Benjamin, James Berlin, Isaiah Obie Bing, Kelly Boyd, Manny de los Santos, Aldemar De Jesus Diaz, George Fernandez, Fe Florimon, Wanda Garcia, Mitchell Glenn, Yosef Kalinsky, Osi Kaminer, Elizabeth Lehmann, Richard R. Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter, Maria Luna, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Jason Miller, Edgar Nau, Ulises Noboa , Ayisha Ogilvie, Pamela Palanque-North, Terriell Peters , Liliana Saneaux, Arlene Schulman, Steve Simon, Alyce Smith, Felipe Wytik Sanchez

***Board members Excused:***

Rolando Cespedes, Rud Morales, Maurice Owen-Michaane, Christopher Smith, Gloria Vanterpool

***Board Members Absent - Excused:***

Lorena Jiménez-Castro, Lorenzo McGougan, Martin Restityo, Tamara Rivera, Angela Sanchez

***Staff:*** Ebenezer Smith, Debora Blow, Paola Garcia

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**Call To Order:** *Chairman George Fernandez convened the meeting at 7:16 pm.*

**Chair's Welcoming Remarks, Updates and Announcements:**

The Chair, George Fernandez, welcomed Board members and the public and reminded Board Members to take the seats set aside for them in the front rows. Since there was no quorum, there was no motion to adopt the minutes or agenda and Mr. Fernandez proceeded to the Chair's Report. He announced that there will be (3) guest speakers. In addition he announced that Board Treasurer, Pamela Palanque North , would provide an overview of the Community Board budget process, Aldemar Diaz will run the comment section with regard to the CB 12 Budget process and Obie Bing will run the Public Session.

There was discord some public members who declared that they had an issue with a particular board member. They were encouraged to either speak at the Public Session or schedule a separate meeting with the Board Chair. They decided to leave and will follow up with the Chair at a later time.

**Quorum was reached at 7:28 pm** and motions were made to adopt and accept the February agenda and the January General Minutes.

**Chair 's Report:**

~ Mr. Fernandez met with Deputy Inspector Aramboles and Community Policing Officer Melendez of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct regarding an upcoming effort to avert fraud affecting the community and in particular seniors and also provide an opportunity for the community to shred documents.

- ~ Our District Manager was able to attend a Federal Small Business Forum downtown and was able to identify resources that may benefit the small businesses in our community
- ~ The Business Committee co-sponsored with Alianza Dominicana a workshop for small businesses on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- ~ We're moving ahead on Housing. Richard Lewis, Chair of the Housing and Human Services Committee held a workshop on Tenants' Rights which was very successful.
- ~ Zoning is a major issue in NYC. At a recent Borough Board meeting, a booklet entitled "Housing New York" was distributed and will be forwarded to Wayne Benjamin, Chair of the Land Use Committee since CB 12 will be dealing with re-zoning in the near future. The booklet concerns the ways in which NYC will have to alter its zoning to permit the construction of affordable housing.
- ~ At the Borough Board, there was substantial discussion about the lack of affordable senior housing and also a lack of affordable commercial space for small business owners.
- ~ CB 12 has been good at dealing with conflict of interest issues. We need to be mindful of the impact of outside connections on our work as Board members. Any questions should be referred to the Chair and / or the Executive Committee.

~ **Announcements:**

- ~ There will be an Affordable Housing Meeting – February 17, 2015 regarding the renewal of rent regulations. Richard Lewis will chair.
- ~ The CB 12 Business Development Committee will host a Small Business Forum on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Isabella from 10:00am to 2:00pm
- ~ NYC Councilman Rodriguez will host his State of the District Address on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30pm at George Washington High School. All Board members should attend.
- ~ George Fernandez, Ebenezer Smith, Liz Ritter, Richard Allman will testify on February 27, 2105 at 250 Broadway on the impact of the George Washington project on the community .
- ~ The NYC DOT will present the latest information on improvements planned for the Highbridge Park area and surrounding streets at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Traffic and Transportation meeting.
- ~ CB 12 applicants should be sure to register for the necessary interviews.
- ~ Congratulations to Isidro Medina , newly appointed Assistant Chair, Licensing Committee.

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**District Manager's Report:**

- ~ District Manager, Ebenezer Smith reported:
  - El Tina Restaurant appealed to Northern Manhattan Board of Police after they received a denial from CB 12 for an operating license made by the Board in January based on certain violations. Yesterday we received notice of a temporary permit of assembly for the restaurant. We will continue to monitor the situation.
  - Last Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> the Chair of the Licensing Committee and I went to El Presidente Restaurant to survey the soundproofing improvements. All seems to

be in order.

- I met with Ms. Marta Sofer of the Federal Small Business Association about services that can be made available to small businesses in this community. She will remain in contact with us concerning ways the Federal Government can help.
- The Little Red Light House is in terrible condition with regard to garbage. I have been in contact with the NYC DOT, the Port Authority and the Parks Department to resolve the issue. NYC DOT has jurisdiction and they will correct the problem. A Memorandum of Understanding will be created.
- The Manhattan District Attorney's office will be hosting a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The District Attorney's office is sponsoring an internship for high school students. The deadline for applications is this Friday, March 1, 2015.
- The DDC Projects are underway
  - ~ West 215th Step Street - north side nearing completion; south side to start
  - ~ Plaza de los Americas – water mains have been changed; painting underway
  - ~ Highbridge Project is nearing completion. Meetings to be held next week.

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### **Borough President's Report**

#### ***Northern Manhattan Liaison, Giovanni Puella presented the following:***

- Copies of the Borough President's Report can be found in the back of the room.
- Applications for Community Board membership are in. There are 722 applications in total. 87% were submitted on line. There were 35 applications for teens.
- 2016 Applications for capital funding are due this Thursday and it is highly recommended that applicants make appointments with the Borough President's budget staff to review any applications submitted.
- Black History Month will be celebrated this coming Thursday at 46 West 116<sup>th</sup> Street between 6pm and 8pm.
- CB 12 should be represented at a Borough Presidents' s meeting with the SLA to discuss borough-wide issues. This meeting will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10:30.
- The Washington Heights housing scam has resulted in an arrest of the woman responsible for defrauding residents
- The Borough President has written a letter to the NYC Parks Commissioner requesting a meeting to ascertain information concerning the agreement between NYC Parks and La Marina Restaurant. There are concerns regarding over-crowding, traffic, parking, smoking and waterfront access.

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**George Fernandez asked for a moment of silence** to acknowledge the passing of community leaders or their family members:

Mother of Senator Perkins  
Mother of Pamela Palanque North  
Mother of Martin Collins  
Father of Robert Jackson  
Community leader Catherine Abate (Community Board 9)

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**Presentations:**

***Presentation by Deputy Inspector Wilson Arambales, 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct provided the following***

- There has been a 37% decrease in crime 2014 over 2013 and a 12% decrease in a 30 day cycle.
- This year we are down .8% year over year
- Burglaries in the area remain a problem. Many people do not lock their doors.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct is planning an event with CB 12, New York Presbyterian and Isabella to host an event that will provide information on identity theft as well as an opportunity to shred personal documents. Date will be announced.
- There will be a Community Council meeting this coming Thursday at 6:30pm at 157-20 Riverside Drive (Riverside Terrace).

***Presentation by Shaun Abreu of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs:***

- Paid sick leave for employees is now the law. Employees are entitled to 5 paid sick days (40 hours - 1 hour for every 30 hours worked). This can be taken at the start of the 120th day of work. This applies to full-time, part-time and undocumented workers.
- There is a free tax preparation center here in CB 12 at 140 Post Avenue, the Public Library and at the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC). This service is available to individuals who earn \$53,000 or less in a year. The filing is done by trained volunteers.
- Residents need to know that they are entitled to the Earned Income Tax Credit. The average return is \$2,500. This applies to individuals who earn \$53,000 or less a year.
- Literature on all of these programs is in the back.

***Presentation by CB 12 Treasurer Pamela Palanque North regarding the Budgeting Process:***

- Before beginning, George Fernandez announced that the Chairs of each committee are to review the responses provided by the City for the various budget items and to provide an appropriate rebuttal. This information is due by March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The role of the Community Board in the budgeting process is mandated by City charter. It is a strong advisory role.

- There are several major elements to the process (slide presentation):
  - ~ Consultation between the Community Board and local agencies such as police, sanitation, etc.
  - ~ District consultations – July
  - ~ Borough consultations
  - ~ Public Hearings held by CB 12
  - ~ Formal Budget Submission
  - ~ Review by the Community & responses (where we are now)
  - ~ Office of Management & Budget (OMB) request & review
  - ~ Public Hearings & testimony
  - ~ Budget takes effect on July 1

***Pamela Palanque North turned to presentation over to Aldemar Diaz who requested comments from the public, city agencies or Board members on the budgetary process:***

- ~ Sarah Fisher commented that mental health services were not properly reflected in the priorities despite prior discussions. (Priority 2). This needs to be corrected.
- ~ Liz Ritter commented that it is good to have multiple points of contact through the year for the budget process and indicated that some agencies like the Parks Department are better at meeting with the community than others. It would be a good idea for Committee Chairs to reach out the appropriate agencies on a regular basis.
- ~ Pamela Palanque North indicated that it would be a good idea to return to a prior system of having Committee Chairs meet with various agencies.
- ~ Budget comments from Board Members:
  - Kelly Boyd – Item #14 – Capital – response is too general. Need more detail.
  - Richard Lewis – Item #14 – Expense – Why refer to the Department of Buildings?
  - Kelly Boyd (for Sarah Fisher) – we should look at responses made to budget requests made by other community boards.

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***Public Session (administered by Obie Bing)***

<b>Louis Bailey</b>	Climate Resiliency Project by We-Act – planning meeting on March 28 <sup>th</sup> for CB 12 and 9 to develop a plan similar to PlanNYC. Location is to be announced.
<b>Lyman Clayburn</b>	New York Public Library – announced the kick-off of “ Bridging Our Stories” - March 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm to 8:00pm – Inwood Public Library – 4790 Broadway. This is an oral history project.
<b>Joel Yoffie</b>	Read a poem regarding the loss of bookstores and other losses
<b>Sarah Flatto</b>	Director of Outreach of the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence. Last year there were 63 family homicides last year. Family Justice Centers are around the city and provide confidential and free services to families. No need for contact with police or medical staff. Help is provided for emergency

housing, other social service supports. In Washington Heights there are many reports of domestic violence – but few seek help. The Family Justice Center is located at 80 Center Street and has multi-lingual staff.

**Betty Lehmann**

Isabella Geriatric Center announced t (2) Open Houses  
Isabella House– Saturday, March 21 – 11am to 3pm  
Home Care Job Fair – Tuesday, March 31 – 10am to 6pm

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**Committee Reports – including resol**

**George Fernandez, Chair**, Executive Committee introduced a resolution passed by the Executive Committee regarding Intro 585, a City Council Resolution, concerning term limits for Community Board members. CB 12 has some concerns about the proposed term limits and drafted a resolution in response to the one offered by the City Council. There was much discussion which resulted in (2) minor amendments to the draft resolution.

**Aldemar Diaz, Chair of the Licensing Committee** indicated that there are (3) resolutions regarding liquor license renewals.

El Mambi Restaurant, 4181 Broadway – approved  
Reynold’s Café – 4241 Broadway – approved  
ICARO Corporation – 400 West 202<sup>nd</sup> Street – Not approved

**Steve Simon, Chair of Health & Environment Committee**, introduced a(2) resolutions:

~ One was originally proposed by the City Council and is supported by the Health and Environment Committee of CB 12 concerns possible charge for the acquisition of plastic bags from certain types of stores.

~ The second resolution has to do with support for an application by the Emma Bowen Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center for a federal grant of \$1.6 million to expand mental health services in our community.

**Richard Lewis, Chair of the Housing & Human Services Committee** introduced a resolution in support of legislation to limit illegal hotels. There was much discussion and various amendments were suggested. The matter was “called to question” to end debate on the resolution and a roll call vote was taken: **Results: 19 = Yes; 11= No**

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**Public & Elected Officials Announcements:**

Liz Ritter – representing NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat announced the arrest of the young woman who scammed community residents on false residency opportunities.

There is a report in each packet – highlights:

Real Rent Reform Coalition meeting – tomorrow - 99 Ft. Washington Avenue – 6:30pm  
College Fair – Riverbank State Park – next weekend  
40th Anniversary of Landmarks’ Movement – today

Natalie from NYC Councilman Levine’s office - (Fliers out front)  
Held successful immigration clinics

Next Housing workshop – Thursday evening – March 5 – MS 54  
 Small Business Forum – March 12 from 8am – 10 am – Broadway Housing

**Voting on Resolutions:**

Item #	Resolutions	Voting Y-N-A-NV	Passed or Failed
1.	CB 12 resolution in response to NYC Council (Intro 585) concerning term limits on Community Board membership	29-1-0-0	Passed
2.	Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to El Mambi Restaurant Corp. 4181 Broadway (corner of 177 <sup>th</sup> St)	29-1-0-0	Passed
3.	Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to Reynold's Café, 4241 Broadway (corner of West 180 <sup>th</sup> St).	29-1-0-0	Passed
4.	Resolution to not recommend that the SLA grant an On-Premise Liquor License to ICARO Corp, 400 West 202 <sup>nd</sup> Street (between 215 & 216 <sup>th</sup> St)	30-0-0-0	Passed
5.	Vacant		
6.	Resolution in support of charging consumers for the use/purchase of plastic bags when shopping in certain stores	15-15-0-0	Tie – did not pass
7.	Resolution in support of the application by the Northern Manhattan Mental Health Center for \$1.6 million in Federal funding to expand community mental health services	16-13-1-0	Passed
8.	Resolution to support legislation limiting the existence of illegal hotels.	30-0-0-0	Passed

**Other Committee Reports:**

Mitch Glenn, Chair of Parks & Cultural Affairs: Refer to the Minutes

Fe Florimon, Chair of Youth & Education: Refer to the Minutes

Jason Miller, Chair of Business Development: the Small Business Forum which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> between 10am to 2pm at Isabella

Shahabuddeen Ally: Chair of Public Safety: Refer to the Minutes

Betty Lehmann, Assistant Chair, Aging Committee: Refer to the Minutes

**A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting concluded at 10:30pm.**

**Minutes respectfully submitted:** Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann  
 Secretary  
 March 2015